

COLCHESTER CITY COUNCIL

Council Meeting

19 July 2023

Supplementary Information

Please note that the business will be subject to short breaks at approximately 90-minute intervals.

Apologies: Councillors Bentley, Jay, Tate

2. **Have Your Say!**

4. **Minutes of Previous Meetings**

A... Motion that the minutes of the meeting on 24 May 2023 be confirmed as a correct record (see page 9 of the Council Summons) .

6. **Items (if any) referred under the Call-in Procedure**

None

7. **Recommendations of the Cabinet, Panels and Committees**

To consider the following recommendations:-

7(i) Annual Scrutiny Report 2023-24

B... Motion that the recommendation contained in minute 399 of the Scrutiny Panel meeting of 14 March 2023 be approved and adopted (see page 15 of the Council Summons).

7(ii) Changes to the Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Policy

C... Motion that the recommended decisions in the Head of Governance's report be approved and adopted (see page 17 of the Council Summons).

8. **Notices of Motion pursuant to the provisions of Council Procedure Rule 11**

Motion D

Anti-Social Behaviour in the City Centre

Proposer: Cllr Cox

If our city is to thrive, residents and visitors must feel safe.

This Council notes the rising incidents of anti-social behaviour (ASB) in the historic city centre and surrounding neighbourhoods, which include:

- *damage to property;*
- *harassment and abuse of staff and customers in the retail and hospitality sectors;*
- *thefts from shops which harm businesses and which can heighten vulnerability experienced by retail staff and customers.*

We call on the City Council and local Community Safety Partnership:

- *to develop and implement a new Anti-Social Behaviour Plan to tackle these issues;*
- *to lead a new collaboration with Essex Youth Services to develop and resource a new Youth Outreach Strategy to engage more effectively with those young people currently involved in ASB;*
- *to bring together adult social care, health and substance misuse services to map efforts to address the causes of ASB*
- *to work with the Police and Crime Commissioner to review policing resource for Colchester.*

As the subject matter relates to an executive function, on being proposed the motion shall stand referred to Cabinet unless Council Procedure Rule 11(2) is suspended.

Main Amendment

Proposer: Cllr King

That the motion on Anti-Social Behaviour in the City Centre be approved and adopted subject to the following amendments:-

In the first sentence, after the words “our city” the insertion of the words “to continue” and the insertion of the following words at the end of the sentence “and that policing is responsive to their concerns.”

In the second sentence the deletion of the word “rising” and its replacement with the word “recent” and the deletion of the word “include” and its replacement with the word “included”.

In the third sentence after the word “We” the insertion of the words “welcome recent action and successes by the police, but”.

In the first bullet point following this sentence the deletion of the current wording and its replacement with the following words “To review and publish the latest evidence of the extent, nature and drivers of ASB, as well as the extent of public willingness to report incidents, to inform and develop a new Anti-Social Behaviour Plan. ”

In the second bullet point following this sentence the deletion of the word “lead” and its replacement with the word “seek”.

Should the main amendment be accepted, the motion would read as follows:-

If our city is to continue to thrive, residents and visitors must feel safe and that policing is responsive to their concerns.

This Council notes the recent incidents of anti-social behaviour (ASB) in the historic city centre and surrounding neighbourhoods, which included:

- *damage to property;*
- *harassment and abuse of staff and customers in the retail and hospitality sectors;*
- *thefts from shops which harm businesses and which can heighten vulnerability experienced by retail staff and customers.*

We welcome recent action and successes by the police, but call on the City Council and local Community Safety Partnership:

- *to review and publish the latest evidence of the extent, nature and drivers of ASB, as well as the extent of public willingness to report incidents, to inform and develop a new Anti-Social Behaviour Plan;*
- *to seek a new collaboration with Essex Youth Services to develop and resource a new Youth Outreach Strategy to engage more effectively with those young people currently involved in ASB;*
- *to bring together adult social care, health and substance misuse services to map efforts to address the causes of ASB*
- *to work with the Police and Crime Commissioner to review policing resource for Colchester.*

Motion E

Proposer: Cllr Laws

This Council notes:

1. *The pride, affection and enjoyment with which residents and visitors have towards our local beauty spots and their tranquility.*

2. National Grid are seeking to transport electricity across East Anglia via pylons which would have a dramatic impact on our residents, especially those living in Langham, Boxted, Fordham, Great Horkesley, Little Horkesley, West Bergholt, Aldham, Marks Tey and beyond.

3. Norfolk, Suffolk and Essex have some of the most beautiful landscapes in the UK, immortalised by painters such as John Constable RA, as such these 50 metre high pylons are incompatible with these landscapes and challenge our revered 'big skies'.

4. The Dedham Vale Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB), which is a protected landscape, has been singled out as an area for power cables to be laid underground but this is only being considered on the basis of the defined area of the AONB. Topographical considerations close to the AONB appear not to have been considered and you will be able to see these pylons from within the AONB.

Furthermore, the setting of the AONB will be compromised with the 'sealing-end compounds' (electrical sub-stations) as well as the installation of inspection pits.

5. The construction of the pylons and associated hardware will have a detrimental impact on our overburdened rural road infrastructure; including lanes with damage to verges likely where there are often no passing places.

6. Further negative consequences during the construction of these pylons could include damage to various habitats of wildlife including: trees, biodiversity, plant-life as well as also negatively impacting on regional tourist attractions and archaeology.

7. Current rules stipulate local Planning Authorities determine if onshore wind turbines are permissible.

This Council informs Cabinet of its opinion that:

1. Robust representations should be made, during and outside of consultation periods, to the government decision makers to oppose new pylons blighting our beautiful countryside.

2. Collaborative working with other local authorities and MPs should take place to support calls for an offshore grid, including for the North Falls and Five Estuaries wind farms; in order to speed up delivery of green energy, cut its cost and protect the Dedham Vale Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty and surrounding countryside.

3. Any attempt to overrule local Planning Authority decision making regarding onshore wind turbines, which would also blight our beautiful countryside, should be resisted

The motion will be debated and determined by Council.

Main Amendment

Proposer: Cllr Pearson

That the motion on the Impact of Pylons on the Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty be approved and adopted subject to the following amendments:-

In the section informing Cabinet of Council's view:-

In paragraph 1, the deletion of the words "government decision makers" and their replacement with words "Government, given they have set the framework for these national planning issues," and the insertion of the following words at the end of the sentence "and to look again at underground and offshore options and their relative and financial and environmental impacts".

The deletion of paragraph 3.

Should the main amendment be accepted, the motion would read as follows:-

This Council notes:

- 1. The pride, affection and enjoyment with which residents and visitors have towards our local beauty spots and their tranquility.*
- 2. National Grid are seeking to transport electricity across East Anglia via pylons which would have a dramatic impact on our residents, especially those living in Langham, Boxted, Fordham, Great Horkesley, Little Horkesley, West Bergholt, Aldham, Marks Tey and beyond.*
- 3. Norfolk, Suffolk and Essex have some of the most beautiful landscapes in the UK, immortalised by painters such as John Constable RA, as such these 50 metre high pylons are incompatible with these landscapes and challenge our revered 'big skies'.*
- 4. The Dedham Vale Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB), which is a protected landscape, has been singled out as an area for power cables to be laid underground but this is only being considered on the basis of the defined area of the AONB. Topographical considerations close to the AONB appear not to have been considered and you will be able to see these pylons from within the AONB.*

Furthermore, the setting of the AONB will be compromised with the 'sealing-end compounds' (electrical sub-stations) as well as the installation of inspection pits.

5. The construction of the pylons and associated hardware will have a detrimental impact on our overburdened rural road infrastructure; including lanes with damage to verges likely where there are often no passing places.

6. Further negative consequences during the construction of these pylons could include damage to various habitats of wildlife including: trees, biodiversity, plant-life as well as also negatively impacting on regional tourist attractions and archaeology.

7. Current rules stipulate local Planning Authorities determine if onshore wind turbines are permissible.

This Council informs Cabinet of its opinion that:

1. Robust representations should be made, during and outside of consultation periods, to the Government, given they have set the framework for these national planning issues, to oppose new pylons blighting our beautiful countryside and to look again at underground and offshore options and their relative and financial and environmental impacts.

2. Collaborative working with other local authorities and MPs should take place to support calls for an offshore grid, including for the North Falls and Five Estuaries wind farms; in order to speed up delivery of green energy, cut its cost and protect the Dedham Vale Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty and surrounding countryside.

9. Questions to Cabinet Members and Chairmen pursuant to Council Procedure Rule 10

Pre-notified questions

(i) Councillor Dundas to Councillor Sommers, Portfolio Holder for Communities

We are all aware of the current anti-social behaviour issues in parts of our city, but it must be emphasised that this is not just in the City Centre but also occurs in our villages and rural areas as the incident in Tiptree on July 11 sadly demonstrates.

The City Centre has a very impressive, state-of-the-art digital CCTV system which is monitored 24/7. However, as far as I am aware this system covers few, if any, areas outside of the City Centre.

Tiptree Parish Council also have a modern CCTV system but due to resources this cannot be monitored 24/7. Would the Portfolio Holder be willing to ascertain the technical feasibility of linking Tiptree's and other systems which may exist into the centrally monitored City system?

Regardless of this, are there any plans in place to extend the current City Centre system to other our other urban centres such as Tiptree, Wivenhoe, Stanway, West Mersea etc.?

(ii) Councillor Laws to Councillor Burrows, Portfolio Holder for Leisure, Culture and Heritage

Could the Portfolio Holder for Leisure, Culture and Heritage please update Council on the Lion Walk Roman Mosaic project?

(iii) Councillor Dundas to Councillor Cory, Portfolio Holder for Resources

I am sure the Portfolio Holder is aware of the long history of the Northern Sports Park and the Mill Road development of more than 300 homes, the District Heat Network, retirement village and a hospital/medical facility.

The original scheme required a new home for the Colchester Rugby Club before they could vacate the Mill Road site and make it available for development. To that end, CCC constructed the Northern Sports Park using a mixture of loans, Homes England Grant and S106 money with the plan that such loans would eventually be paid off by the proceeds from developing the Mill Road site.

The originally anticipated date the sale of houses would begin paying off those loans was July 2022, it is now July 2023 and no construction is taking place.

Could the Portfolio Holder please confirm whether and when the money spent on the sports park will be recovered from the sale of Mill Road Housing land, as originally planned and that as a result any money we are borrowing at high interest rates will be paid off and not eat into our scarce general fund?

(iv) Councillor Sunnucks to Councillor Cory, Portfolio Holder for Resources

I am pleased the Council is the owner of a broadband network funded by DCMS:

- *and that the Colchester Fibre Ultrafast Broadband service is now live and available*
- *and that it offers excellent value for money to Colchester residents and businesses.*

Please could the Portfolio Holder confirm how many external resident and commercial subscribers there are and whether we are on budget? Are sufficient steps being taken to explain why residents should choose it over

established brands like Virgin and BT? Please could he also confirm that all terms of the DCMS grant agreement are being complied with, especially those relating to the commercialisation of the network?

10. Updates to the Constitution

F... Moton that the recommendations in the Monitoring Officer's report be approved and adopted (see page 39 of the Council Summons).

11. Schedule of Portfolio Holder Decisions

Council is invited to note the schedule of Portfolio Holder decisions covering the period 10 February 2023 – 7 July 2023 (see page 29 of the Council Summons).

14. Exclusion of the Public

In accordance with Section 100A of the Local Government Act 1972 to exclude the public, including the press, from the meeting so that any items containing exempt information (for example confidential, personal, financial o legal advice) in Part B of this agenda (printed on yellow paper) may be decided. Exempt information is defined in Section 1000I and Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972).